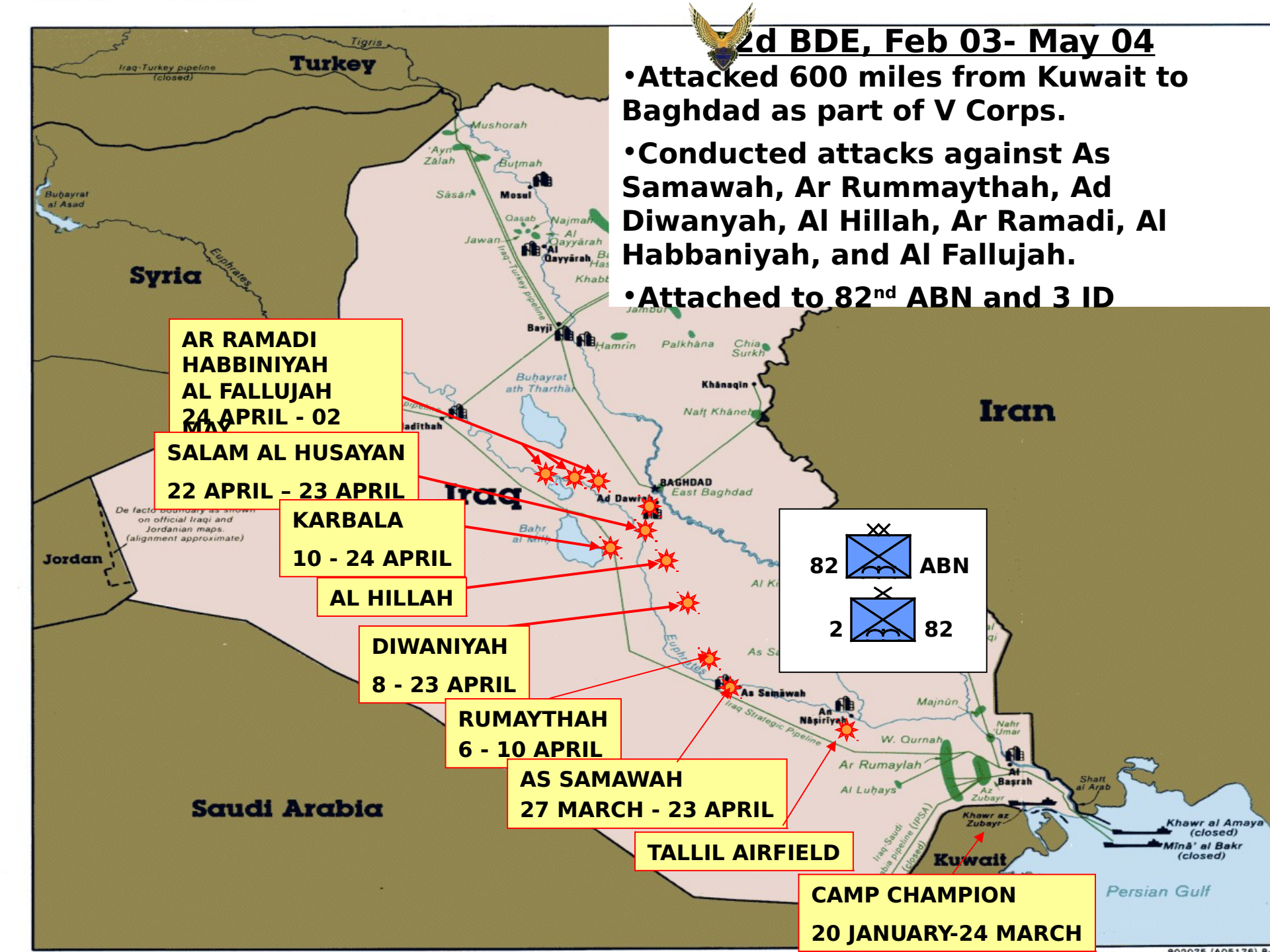
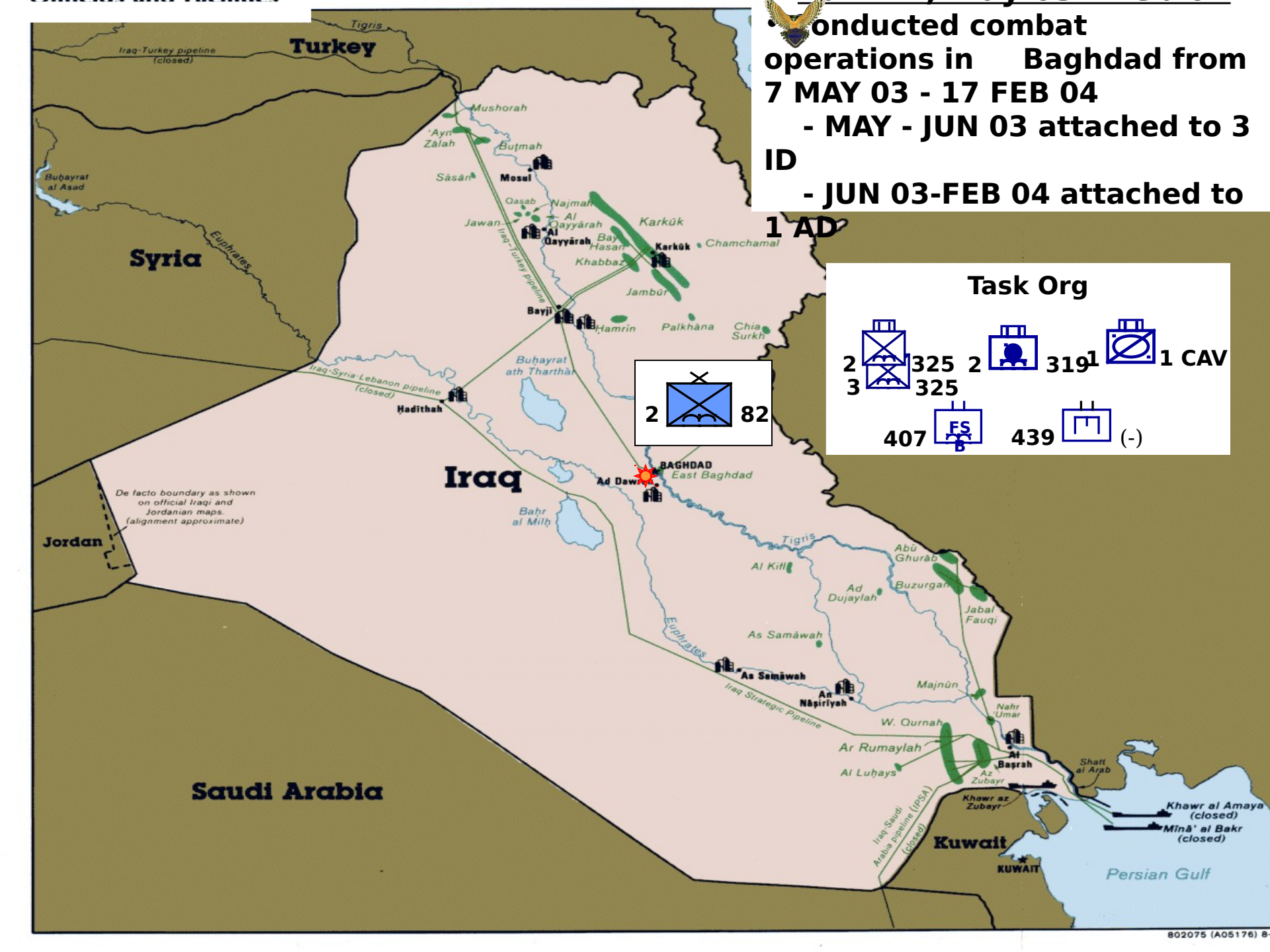
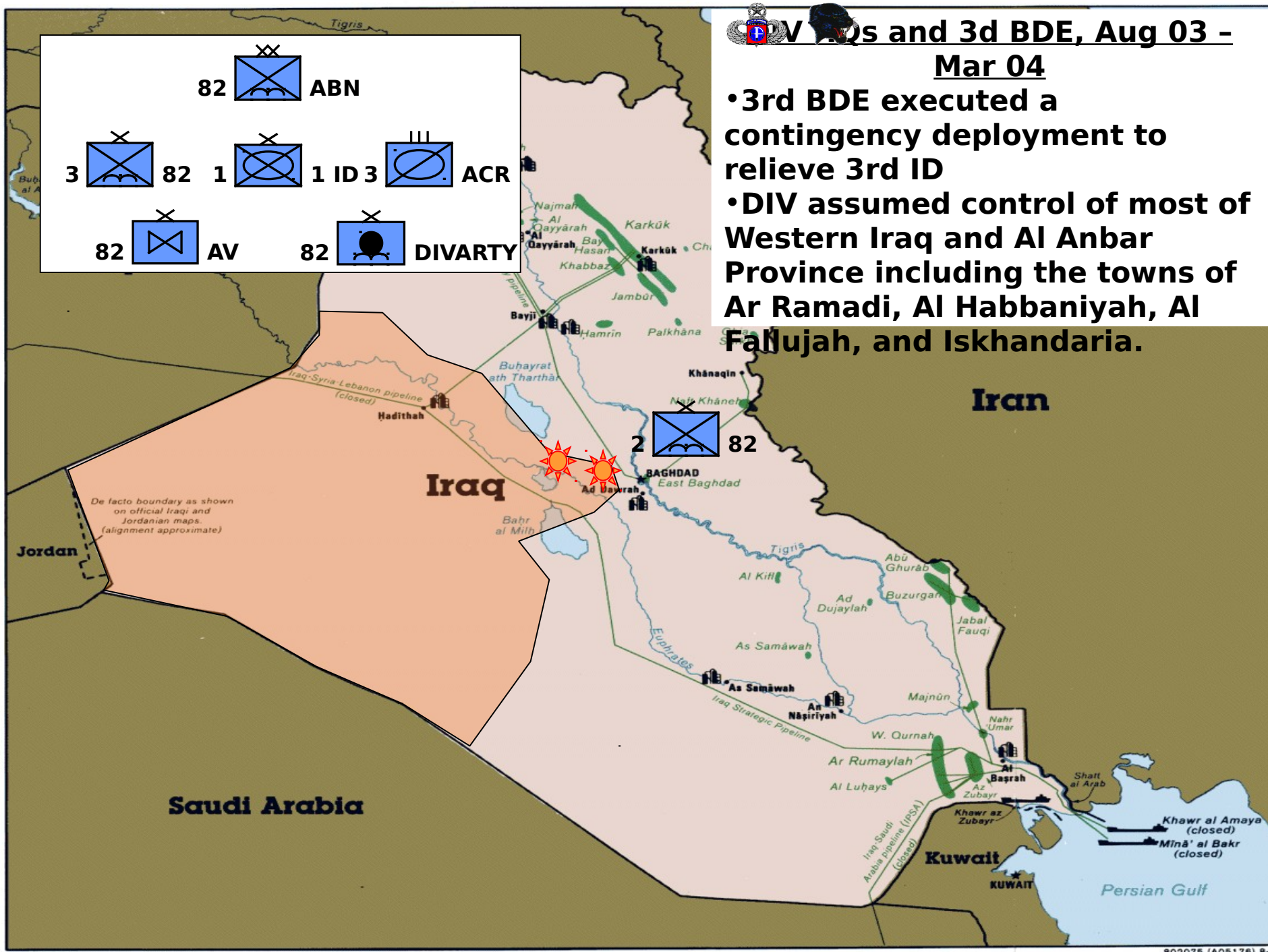
82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION

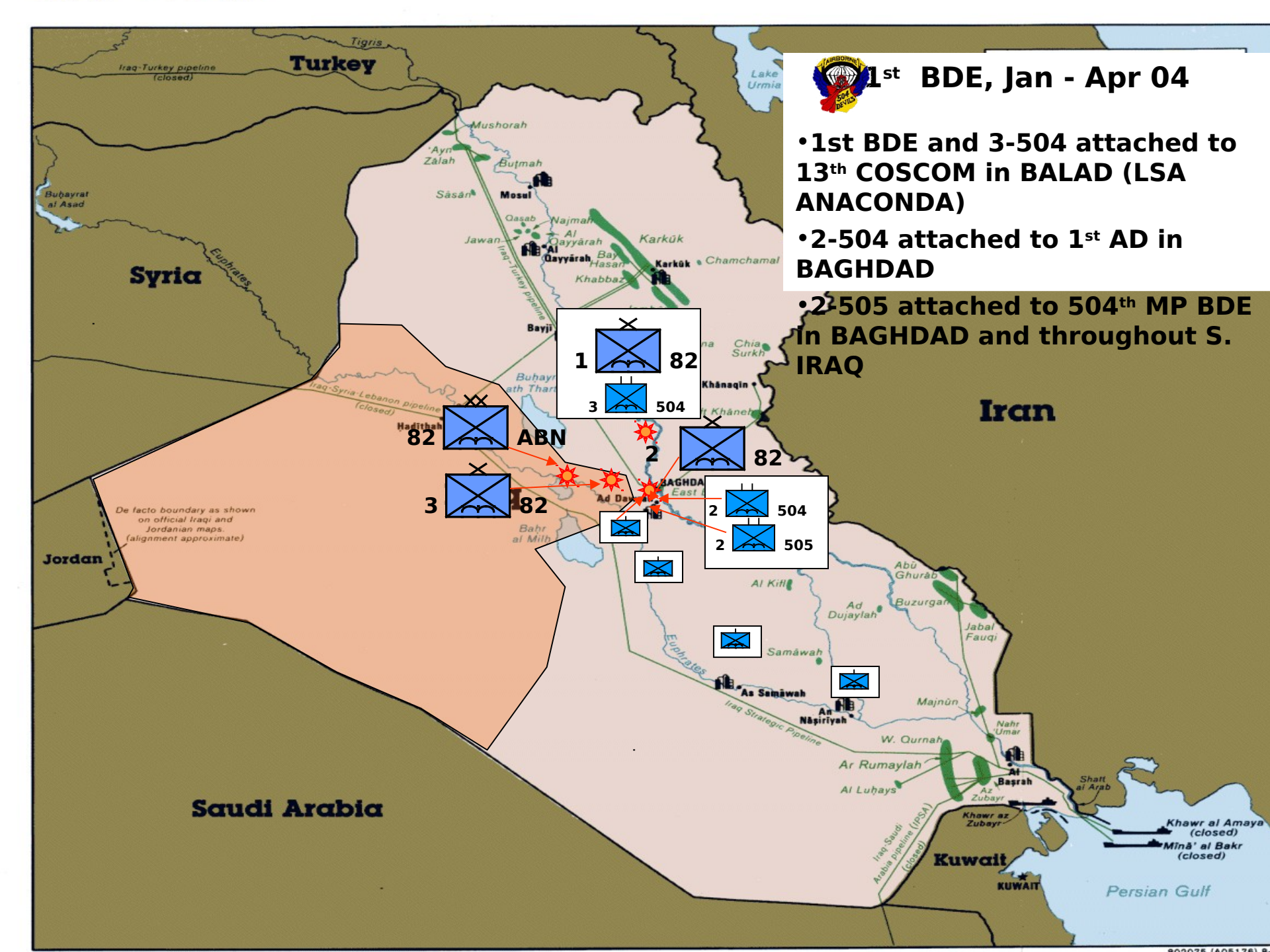
EXPERIENCES FROM OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

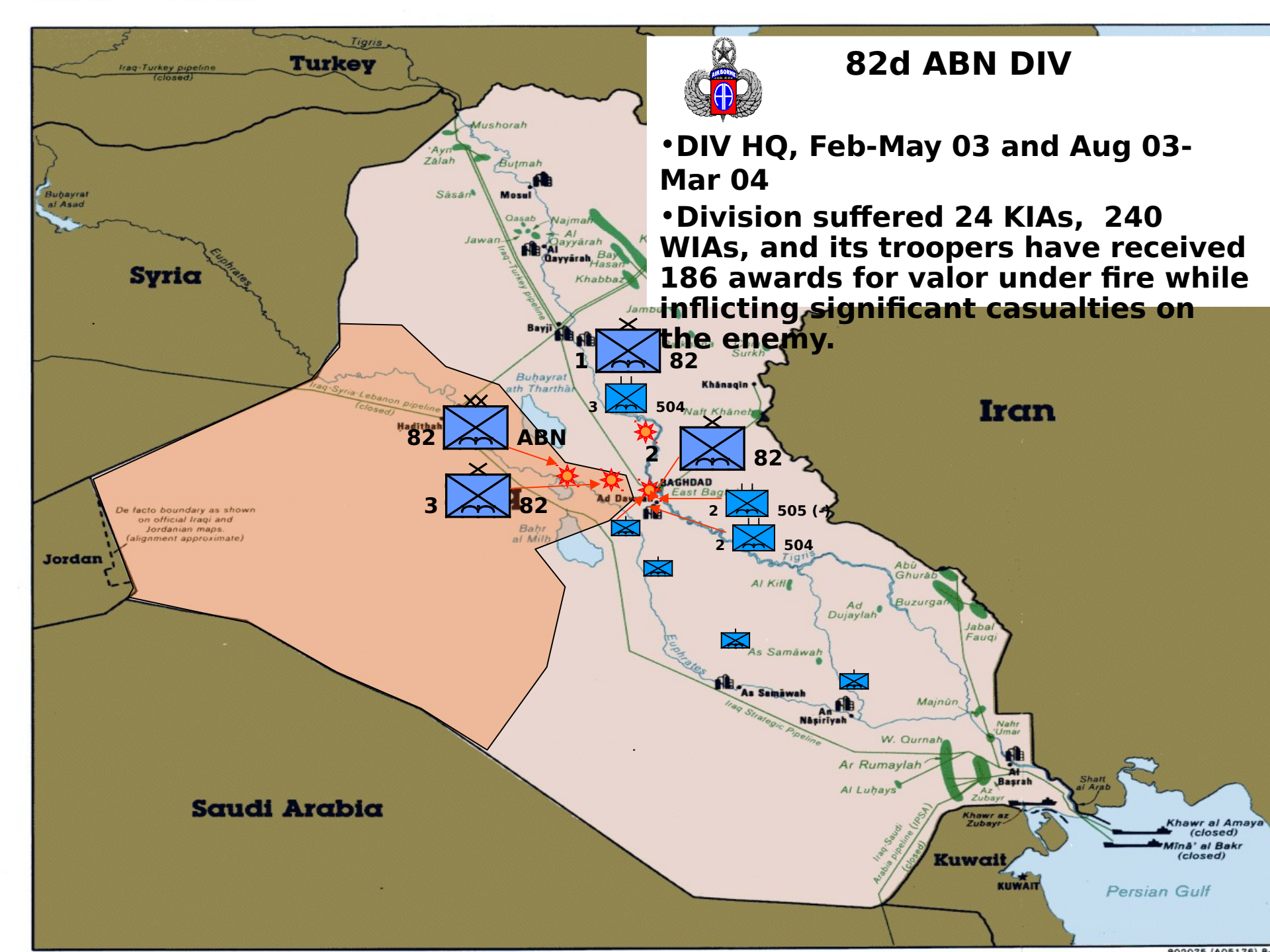
2003-2004


2d BDE, Feb 03- May 04
•Attacked 600 miles from Kuwait to Baghdad as part of V Corps.
•Conducted attacks against As Samawah, Ar Rummaythah, Ad Diwanyah, Al Hillah, Ar Ramadi, Al Habbaniyah, and Al Fallujah.
•Attached to 82nd ABN and 3 ID
AR RAMADI
HABBINIYAH
AL FALLUJAH
24 APRIL - 02 MAY
SALAM AL HUSAYAN
22 APRIL – 23 APRIL
KARBALA
10 - 24 APRIL
AL HILLAH
DIWANIYAH
8 - 23 APRIL
RUMAYTHAH
6 - 10 APRIL
AS SAMAWAH
27 MARCH - 23 APRIL
TALLIL AIRFIELD
CAMP CHAMPION
20 JANUARY-24 MARCH
82 ABN
2 82
Turkey
Syria
Iraq
Iran
Saudi Arabia
Kuwait
Jordan
Persian Gulf
BAGHDAD
East Baghdad
Mosul
Bayji
Ad Dawr
As Samāwah
An Nāṣirīyah
Al Başrah
Khānaqin
Tigris
Euphrates
Iraq-Turkey pipeline (closed)
Iraq Strategic Pipeline
Iraq-Saudi Arabia pipeline (IPSA) (closed)
Khawr az Zubayr
Khawr al Amaya (closed)
Mīnā' al Bakr (closed)


• Conducted combat operations in Baghdad from 7 MAY 03 - 17 FEB 04
- MAY - JUN 03 attached to 3 ID
- JUN 03-FEB 04 attached to 1 AD
Task Org
2 325
3 325
2 319
1 1 CAV
407 FSB
439 (-)
2 82
Turkey
Syria
Iraq
Jordan
Saudi Arabia
Kuwait
Persian Gulf
Tigris
Euphrates
Iraq-Turkey pipeline (closed)
Iraq-Syria-Lebanon pipeline (closed)
Iraq Strategic Pipeline
Iraq-Saudi Arabia pipeline (IPSA) (closed)
Mosul
Karkūk
Bayji
Hadīthah
BAGHDAD
East Baghdad
Ad Dawr
Al Qayyārah
As Samāwah
An Nāṣirīyah
Al Baṣrah
Az Zubayr
Khawr az Zubayr
KUWAIT
Khawr al Amaya (closed)
Mīnā' al Bakr (closed)
De facto boundary as shown on official Iraqi and Jordanian maps. (alignment approximate)
802075 (A05176) 8-


82 ABN
3 82
1 1 ID
3 ACR
82 AV
82 DIVARTY
DIV HQs and 3d BDE, Aug 03 – Mar 04
•3rd BDE executed a contingency deployment to relieve 3rd ID
•DIV assumed control of most of Western Iraq and Al Anbar Province including the towns of Ar Ramadi, Al Habbaniyah, Al Fallujah, and Iskhandaria.
2 82
Iran
Iraq
Saudi Arabia
Jordan
Kuwait
Persian Gulf
BAGHDAD
East Baghdad
Ad Dawrah
Bayji
Hamrin
Palkhana
Khanaqin
Hadithah
Karkuk
Khabbaz
Jambur
Najmah
Al Qayyarah
Buhayrat ath Tharthar
Bahr al Milh
Tigris
Euphrates
Al Kifl
Ad Dujaylah
Abu Ghurab
Buzurgan
Jabal Fauqi
As Samawah
Majnun
Nahr 'Umar
W. Qurnah
Ar Rumaylah
Al Luhays
Al Basrah
Az Zubayr
Khawr az Zubayr
Shatt al 'Arab
Khawr al Amaya (closed)
Mina' al Bakr (closed)
KUWAIT
An Nasiriyah
Iraq-Syria-Lebanon pipeline (closed)
Iraq Strategic Pipeline
Iraq-Saudi Arabia pipeline (IPSA) (closed)
De facto boundary as shown on official Iraqi and Jordanian maps. (alignment approximate)


1st BDE, Jan - Apr 04
•1st BDE and 3-504 attached to 13th COSCOM in BALAD (LSA ANACONDA)
•2-504 attached to 1st AD in BAGHDAD
•2-505 attached to 504th MP BDE in BAGHDAD and throughout S. IRAQ
Turkey
Syria
Iran
Jordan
Saudi Arabia
Kuwait
Persian Gulf
Tigris
Euphrates
Iraq-Turkey pipeline (closed)
Iraq-Syria-Lebanon pipeline (closed)
Iraq Strategic Pipeline
Iraq-Saudi Arabia pipeline (IPSA) (closed)
De facto boundary as shown on official Iraqi and Jordanian maps. (alignment approximate)
Lake Urmia
Buḥayrat al Asad
Mushorah
'Ayn Zālah
Buṭmah
Sāsān
Mosul
Qasab
Najmah
Al Qayyārah
Jawan
Karkūk
Bay Hasan
Khabbaz
Chamchamal
Bayji
Chia Surkh
Khānaqin
Hadīthah
Bahr al Milh
Ad Dayr
BAGHDAD
East
Al Kifl
Abū Ghurāb
Ad Dujaylah
Buzurgan
Jabal Fauqi
Samāwah
As Samāwah
An Nāṣirīyah
Majnūn
Nahr 'Umar
W. Qurnah
Ar Rumaylah
Al Luḥays
Al Baṣrah
Az Zubayr
Khawr az Zubayr
Shatt al 'Arab
Khawr al Amaya (closed)
Mīnā' al Bakr (closed)
KUWAIT
82 ABN
3 82
1 82
3 504
2 82
2 504
2 505


82d ABN DIV
•DIV HQ, Feb-May 03 and Aug 03-Mar 04
•Division suffered 24 KIAs, 240 WIAs, and its troopers have received 186 awards for valor under fire while inflicting significant casualties on the enemy.
Turkey
Syria
Iran
Jordan
Saudi Arabia
Kuwait
Iraq
Tigris
Euphrates
Iraq-Turkey pipeline (closed)
Iraq-Syria-Lebanon pipeline (closed)
Iraq Strategic Pipeline
Iraq-Saudi Arabia pipeline (IPSA) (closed)
Buḥayrat al Asad
Mushorah
'Ayn Zālah
Buṭmah
Sāsān
Mosul
Qasab
Najmah
Al Qayyārah
Jawan
Khabbaz
Bayji
Buḥayrat ath Tharthār
Hadīthah
De facto boundary as shown on official Iraqi and Jordanian maps. (alignment approximate)
Bahr al Milh
Surkh
Khānaqin
Naft Khānah
BAGHDAD
East Bag
Ad Day
Al Kifl
Ad Dujaylah
Abū Ghurāb
Buzurgan
Jabal Fauqi
As Samāwah
An Nāṣirīyah
Majnūn
Nahr 'Umar
W. Qurnah
Ar Rumaylah
Al Luḥays
Al Başrah
Az Zubayr
Khawr az Zubayr
Shatt al 'Arab
Khawr al Amaya (closed)
Mīnā' al Bakr (closed)
KUWAIT
Persian Gulf
1 82
3 504
2 82
82 ABN
3 82
2 505 (-)
2 504

THE PARATROOPER & SOLDIER

What Worked:

Rapid Fielding Initiative

- **ADVANCED COMBAT HELMET**
- **INTERCEPTOR BODY ARMOR**
- **MOLLE VEST & CAMELBAK**
- **GLOVES AND BOOTS**
- **.50 Cal SNIPER RIFLE**
- **ADVANCED COMBAT OPTICS**
- **THERMAL SIGHTS**
- **BALLISTIC EYE PROTECTION**

What The Trooper Needs:

- **LIFE CYCLE WEAPONS REPLACEMENTS**
- **LANGUAGE TRAINING AIDS**
- **BETTER ASSAULT PACKS**
- **INDIVIDUAL WATER PURIFICATION**
- **CULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING—FAMILIARITY WITH CONTEMPORARY OPERATING ENVIRONMENT**

THE LEADERS

What Worked:

- **DECISION-MAKING SKILLS**
  - **HIGH-QUALITY PROFESSIONALS**
  - **MENTALLY AGILE & ADAPTABLE**
- **82ND ABN DIV TRAINING FOCUS**
  - **MARKSMANSHIP**
  - **PHYSICAL READINESS**
  - **BATTLE DRILLS**
  - **MEDICAL TRAINING**
  - **AIRBORNE PROFICIENCY**
- **HASTY/QUICK PLANNING PROCESS**
- **ENFORCING HIGH STANDARDS THROUGH REHEARSALS AND INSPECTIONS**

What Leaders Need:

- **ACCESS TO POLICE, CIVIL AFFAIRS, LINGUISTS, HUMAN INTEL & ORDNANCE SPECIALIST SKILL SETS**
- **TAILORED & EXPORTABLE MISSION REHEARSAL PACKAGES**
- **TOOLS & EXPERTISE TO EXECUTE INFORMATION OPERATIONS**
- **CULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING W/ COALITION & JOINT ASSETS**
- **LANGUAGE AIDS & TRAINING**

CONVENTIONAL LEADERS…
…FIGHTING IN AN UNCONVENTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, & RECONNAISSANCE

What Worked:

- **URBAN HIDE SITES AND PATIENCE**
- **TACTICAL QUESTIONING**
- **DETAINEE DATABASE**
- **THTs/MITs (NOT ENOUGH)**
- **POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH IRAQIS**
- **SOF / CONVENTIONAL INTEGRATION (When LNOs were present)**

What We Still Need:

- **COHERENT COLLECTION PLANS NESTED WITH SOF / OGA / SMU**
- **MI ASSETS (HUMINT / SIGINT) AT LOWER LEVELS (BN / CO)**
- **ACCESS TO TS LEVEL INTEL AT BN LEVEL**
- **URBAN RECON CAPABILITIES**
- **LOW LEVEL SOURCE OPERATIONS**
- **FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE/ BIOMETRICS**

SEE FIRST…DECIDE FIRST…ACT FIRST… WIN!!!

LETHALITY

What Worked:

- **LETHAL SQUADS & PLATOONS**
- **AC-130 IN URBAN TERRAIN**
- **AIR TO GROUND INTEGRATION WITH HELICOPTERS**
- **HEAVY MACHINE GUNS/SNIPERS**
- **FOLLOW THRU W/ CIVIL AFFAIRS & INFORMATION OPERATIONS**
- **CLOSE QUARTER MARKSMANSHIP**

What We Still Need:

- **M249 SAW AND HVY MACHINE GUN REPLACEMENTS / RECOILLESS RIFLE**
- **ABILITY TO PROVIDE TERMINAL GUIDANCE WITH ARMY 13F AS JTACs FOR USAF CLOSE AIR SUPPORT**
- **SHORT RANGE TRAINING AMMO / SIMUNITIONS**
- **GAU-19 MINI-GUNS FOR HELOs**
- **COE COMPATIBLE HOME STATION RANGES and FLS**

MOBILITY/SURVIVABILITY

What Worked:

- **UP-ARMOR HMMWVs**
- **MODS TO CARGO HMMWVs (ARMOR PLATES, KEVLAR BLANKETS)**
- **VAPOR TRACER**
- **DOGS**
- **SPOT LIGHTS**
- **ATTACK HELICOPTER ASSETS**
- **EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TEAMS WITH ROBOTS**
- **LOOK MORE THREATENING THAN THE OTHER GUY (WEAPONS, ATTITUDE)**
- **EVERY MOVE OUTSIDE FOB IS A COMBAT OPERATION**
- **STANDARDIZED CONVOY CHECKLISTS/BRIEFINGS**

What We Still Need:

- **ONE VEHICLE PER SQUAD (PULLED ASSET)**
- **SOLDIER & VEHICULAR MINE PROTECTION**
- **MINE & IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETECTION & DEFEAT CAPABILITIES**
- **CENTER LINE SEATING**
- **CELL PHONE JAMMING CAPABILITY**

COMMAND AND CONTROL

What Worked:

82nd Airborne Bde's/ Bn's worked for 5 Division HQ's

- **ABILITY TO TASK ORGANIZE ON THE MOVE**
- **MULTIPLE COMMAND AND CONTROL NODES (MANNING ISSUE)**
- **LNOS**
- **BLUE FORCE TRACKER (NOT ENOUGH)**
- **USE OF IMAGERY**
- **ABBREVIATED/ADAPTABLE MDMP**
- **TWO SEPARATE TARGETING CYCLES (MANEUVER & NON-LETHAL OPS)**

What We Still Need:

- **STANDARDIZED COP – TOO MANY SYSTEMS: FALCONVIEW, C2PC, MCS-L, BFT, CDA (Requires more bandwidth)**
- **LARGE PACKAGE WEEK RESOURCED W/ JSTARs/ JCAS/ 10 C17/C130's**
- **DEPTH OF STAFF - INCREASE NUMBERS, ADD SPECIALISTS**
- **LIGHTWEIGHT, LONG RANGE VOICE & DATA CAPABILITY**
- **SQUAD RADIOS – 3 to 5 MILE RANGE, SECURE**
- **ACCESSIBILITY TO NEAR REAL TIME IMAGERY**

OPERATIONAL THEMES

DEFEATING IEDS

- **WHAT WORKED:**
  - OPN CHOKE HOLD
  - INTEL DRIVEN RAIDS
  - REWARDS PROGRAM
  - EOD BATTLE DRILLS
  - IRAQI SECURITY FORCES
  - AVENGERS

- **WHAT WE STILL NEED:**
  - IED UNIVERSAL DETONATOR
  - BETTER HUMINT
  - FORENSICS
  - CELL PHONE JAMMER

COUNTER MORTAR

- **WHAT WORKED:**
  - AC-130
  - OBSERVATION POSTS
  - INFO OPs
  - RAIDS
  - H & I FIRES

- **WHAT WE STILL NEED:**
  - BETTER COP FOR CLEARANCE OF FIRES
  - MORE & IMPROVED COUNTER-FIRE RADARS

OPERATIONAL THEMES

RIOT CONTROL

- **WHAT WORKED:**
  - MP AND INF MIX
  - KIOWAS
  - NIGHT OPS
  - IO
  - SHOCK
  - DIGITAL PHOTOS AND GUN TAPES

- **WHAT WE STILL NEED:**
  - NEW NON-LETHAL DEVELOPMENTS
    - MICROWAVE, ACOUSTIC ENERGY

MOSQUE MONITORING

- **WHAT WORKED:**
  - IRAQI SECURITY FORCES
  - TAPE RECORDING
  - SURVEILLANCE
  - DIGITAL PHOTOS

- **WHAT WE STILL NEED:**
  - PSYOP [WITH THE GLOVES OFF]

BOTTOM LINE

Why was the 82nd Airborne Division successful in Iraq?

- **RAPIDLY DEPLOYABLE**
- **FLEXIBLE AND MODULAR TASK ORGANIZATIONS**
- **ADAPTABLE LEADERS**
- **DECISION-MAKING AT THE LOWEST LEVEL**
- **LETHAL INFANTRY SQUADS & PLATOONS**
- **WELL TRAINED, EQUIPPED AND DISCIPLINED PARATROOPERS**

READY & ABLE TO FIGHT ANYWHERE IN THE CONTEMPORARY OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

WISH LIST

- **SQUAD ARMORED VEHICLES**
  - **CENTER LINE SEATING AND MACHINE GUN MOUNTS**
- **WEAPONS UPGRADES**
  - **M2/MK19/M249 REPLACEMENTS**
  - **RECOILLESS RIFLES**
  - **GAU-19**
- **IED DETONATOR**
- **13Fs AS JTACs**
- **LOW LEVEL SOURCE OPERATIONS**
- **URBAN RECON CAPABILITY**
- **THTs/MITs**
- **IMPROVED / STANDARDIZED C3 and COP**
- **INCREASED STAFF FOR BCT**

QUESTIONS?